

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1. A differential signal transmitter comprising:
a driver circuit that generates a differential signal in response to inputted data, a voltage amplitude of the differential signal being controlled by a bias; and a control circuit comprising a first input for receiving a first control indicator, the control circuit being capable of outputting the bias at different levels according to the first control indicator.
2. The differential signal transmitter of claim 1 wherein the first control indicator is a single bit.
3. The differential signal transmitter of claim 1 wherein the control circuit is capable of outputting the bias at different current levels.
4. The differential signal transmitter of claim 3 wherein when the control circuit outputs the bias at a first current level, the driver circuit generates a Low Voltage Differential Signaling (LVDS) differential signal in response to the inputted data.
5. The differential signal transmitter of claim 3 wherein when the control circuit outputs the first current level as a bias for the driver circuit, the driver circuit generates a Mini-LVDS differential signal in response to inputted data.
6. The differential signal transmitter of claim 3 wherein when the control circuit outputs the first current level as a bias for the driver circuit, the driver circuit generates a Reduced Swing Differential Signaling differential signal in response to inputted data.
7. The differential signal transmitter of claim 1 wherein when the control circuit outputs a predetermined current level as a bias for the driver circuit, the outputted current is a sum of predetermined current sources, the current sources to summed being selected according to the control indicator.
8. The differential signal transmitter of claim 1 wherein the control circuit further comprises a second input for receiving a second control indicator.

[c9] 9. A method of transmitting a differential signal from a transmitter, the transmitter comprising a driver circuit that generates the differential signal in response to inputted data and a control circuit, an voltage amplitude of the differential signal being controlled by an electrical bias, the method comprising:
receiving a control indicator from a first input of the control circuit;
the control circuit generating the electrical bias at different levels according to the first control indicator; and
generating the differential signal at a voltage amplitude determined by the electrical bias.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 9 further comprises the driver circuit generating a Low Voltage Differential Signaling (LVDS) differential signal in response to inputted data when the control circuit outputs the electrical bias at a first predetermined level.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 9 further comprises the driver circuit generating a Mini-LVDS differential signal in response to inputted data when the control circuit outputs the electrical bias at a second predetermined level.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 9 further comprises the driver circuit generating a Reduced Swing Differential Signaling differential signal in response to inputted data when the control circuit outputs electrical bias at a third predetermined level.